



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Blackhawk Park, Victory, Wis.



Backwater lakes at Blackhawk Park in Pool 9 of the Mississippi River

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the site is located adjacent to Blackhawk Park on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in Pool 9, approximately 25 miles south of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Backwater lakes and sloughs at Blackhawk Park did not receive water flows from the Mississippi River at normal pool levels. This resulted in stagnation and dissolved oxygen depletion in these waters during late summer and winter.

The project provides sufficient fresh water flows to the backwaters to alleviate the dissolved oxygen problems on a year-round basis. This was accomplished by excavating approximately 7,000 linear feet of channels from the Mississippi River to the backwater lakes, providing flows of 30 to 90 cubic feet per second to the lakes. Culverts were installed where the channels cross local roadways.

It is estimated that the project will result in annual production increases of approximately 20,000 fish from these backwaters.

Status

A construction contract was awarded in May 1990 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and completed in December 1990. The Wisconsin DNR was reimbursed for preparation of the final design and construction in accordance with the local cooperation agreement. The Wisconsin DNR will operate and maintain the project.

Authority

The Blackhawk Park Backwater Restoration Project was constructed under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP) in accordance with a Definite Project Report dated February 1986. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 75-percent Federal/25-percent non-Federal. The Wisconsin DNR is the non-Federal sponsor. Operation and maintenance costs are funded on a 75-percent Federal/25-percent non-Federal basis (a responsibility of the Wisconsin DNR).

Federal Cost	\$232,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$77,000
Total Cost	\$309,000